

EHS in National Spotlight

For many years now I have had the privilege and pleasure of being invited to speak at The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) annual conference. While I am always honored to represent Eagle Hill School on this national platform, this year I was absolutely billowing with pride to share the stage in Washington, DC with four of my fellow faculty members and one of EHS' esteemed trustees. To my delight, Eagle Hill School had more presenters (six) and more total workshops (four) than any other school in the country.

The EHS workshops were rich with content and extremely well attended. Becky Leyva and Kristyl Yopak delighted the audience with their story about creating and sustaining the girls' leadership retreat in their workshop titled *Fostering Leadership in Girls*. Ken Leyva's solo act, *Determining the Boundaries Between Teachers and Students*, offered great insight into the many ways in which one can create positive and professional relationships on a boarding school campus. Michael Riendeau and I joined the president of WhippleHill Communications in presenting *Communicating into the Future*, providing a roadmap to the effective use of technology for communicating with all constituents within an independent school community.

I must confess, though, that sharing the stage with EHS trustee Bob Rogers was a personal thrill and a treat for the entire TABS community. As many of you know, after a long and distinguished corporate career, Bob became the Chairman of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, a \$2 billion foundation advancing entrepreneurship and improving the education of children and youth. Bob's grandson Nick graduated from EHS in 2004 and is enjoying tremendous success at American International College.

Our workshop, *Effective Governance: Leading with the Head and the Heart*, outlined the essentials to developing an effective governing board that supports, guides, and inspires excellence in an independent school. The audience, including me, was absolutely transfixed as Bob told story after story about effective leadership, all of which eventually circled back to the core themes of personal and professional integrity, character, accountability, and responsibility. The audience simply could not get enough of his message, and I confess that as we each chatted with attendees after the session, I was sometimes putting more effort into overhearing Bob's commentary than toward making my own. Letting any opportunity to learn from Bob Rogers slip by is a risk that I don't want to take.

Part of Eagle Hill School's mission is to leverage our knowledge and research in an effort to give back to the broader field of education. We are a learning organization through and through, and we are constantly seeking to develop and share innovative ways to teach and to learn. We furthered our mission considerably at the 2006 TABS conference, and the EHS faculty did us all proud...as did Nick's grandfather.

Peter J. McDonald, Ed.D.
Headmaster